

Session III – Connecting People and the Ecosystems That Support Them
4:20 PM

An Evaluation of Stakeholder Involvement in Wetlands Uses at Kampong Chhnang Province

Soben Kim¹ and Chamroeun Heng²

¹Royal University of Agriculture, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Email:
kimsobenruea@yahoo.com

²Royal University of Agriculture, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Abstract

Many rural Cambodian people depend on natural resources for their survival. Wetlands provide some of those natural resources. These are presently under pressure due to high demand, overexploitation and poor land management. The history of Cambodia has been characterized by exclusion of local communities in the process of decision-making and general management of natural resources. Participation of all stakeholders is crucial for successful sustainable natural resource management. Due to population growth, poverty, and development efforts, wetlands are increasingly being utilized and transformed in Cambodia. Wetlands provide valuable ecosystem services to society.

Kompong Chhnang province is located in the southeast, 91 km of Phnom. The provincial town is located left of the Tonle Sap River of Ro Leaphier district. The province is further divided into 8 districts consisting of 96 communes or 538 villages. It occupies an area of 544,000 ha, total population of 370,430 persons. The province is covered by 1/3 of forest and mountains equivalent to 35,000 ha. Unfortunately, the forest is severely damaged by civil unrest, encroachment for land tenure, uncontrolled logging, and high population growth. Being aware of the problems and concerned about the future degradation of forest resources and wetlands used, I will select this title as the priority subject for research.

The objective of the research was to (1) understand the relationship between the community's livelihood and the utilization of wetlands resources, and (2) to understand the utilization and management of wetlands in the communities.

Qualitative methodologies will be used. Through the use of questionnaires, observations and document analysis, stakeholders' interests were identified to assess their influence in the process of participation of local stakeholders. The study methodology involves a literature review, an analysis of survey data, and case studies. The literature review generates background information in connection with community involvement and the base closure process. The questionnaire provides data used in developing indices for the

analyses in the study. The interviews and case studies produce further in-depth information about the process of base closures and community involvement.

The obtained results will be the information about the species available or traditional use of wetlands at Kampong Chhnan, the emerging tensions surrounding stakeholder utilization and management of wetlands in the communities and tensions arising amongst stakeholders and how these are being resolved.

In the conclusion, main species, indigenous knowledge of rural livelihood utilization, and management of wetlands and tensions arising amongst stakeholders will be shown and the problem identified.